

Appl. No.: 10/618,253

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A frame adapted for use with an external bone fixation device ~~used in treating bone trauma and correcting deformities~~, said frame to at least partially encircle a bone, said frame comprising:

(a) ~~a substantially radiolucent body material; and~~

(b) ~~a beryllium stiffening member wherein said beryllium stiffening member is~~ embedded in said ~~substantially~~ radiolucent body material.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is annular.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is arcuate.

4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is both lightweight and rigid.

5. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is chemically inert with respect to the human body.

6. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is chemically inert with respect to household substances.

7. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~substantially~~ radiolucent body material comprises a polycarbonate compound.

8. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is autoclavable.

9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is adapted for attachment of a variety of wire- and pin-securing devices.

10. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame further comprises a second beryllium stiffening member embedded in said ~~substantially~~ radiolucent body material.